

Journal

Office of Legislative Counsel

Wednesday - 14 July 1954

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1. At the request of Mr. Johnson, of the staff of the House Post Office & Civil Service Committee, I attended a meeting with him and Mr. Karper, of the House Legislative Counsel's office, to review a draft of a proposed bill which would deny Government pensions or annuities to Government employees who refused to testify or produce documents before Federal Grand Juries, Federal Courts, or Congressional Committees on the ground of self-incrimination. In addition, the bill would deny pensions to Government employees convicted of certain felonies or violations of the criminal code. Mr. Johnson wanted to make certain that the draft of the bill would not harm CIA personnel who might not be able to testify for security reasons. Mr. Houston and I agreed that the reason for non-testimony by a CIA employee would in all probability be predicated on directive from the DCI and that the possibility that we would require an employee to take the Fifth Amendment is so remote as not to warrant attempting to write in an exception for CIA personnel. Similarly, the section regarding conviction for committing certain felonies could be handled through Presidential pardon if necessary. The bill as presently drafted does not include conviction for contempt (under which most CIA or FBI cases would arise); but I told Mr. Johnson that if an amendment were to be added which would include contempt, we would then have to request consideration of an amendment which would exclude those cases where the witness stood silent for security reasons.